



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

THE BREAKDOWN



Some Issues Involved In Health Care Reform

The fight over health care reform is dominating the news. You may be wondering, "How does this affect me? Will it impact my health plan or the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans (FEHBP)?" First, let's look at FEHBP. At this point, none of the proposals will have a direct impact on existing health insurance for federal and postal employees or retirees. However, the NPMHU remains vigilant on this issue, and continues to work with other postal and federal organizations to lobby Congress to protect FEHBP. If any credible attempt to undermine FEHBP surfaces, you will be contacted immediately. Next, the NPMHU believes that health care inflation is out of control and needs to be stopped. Health care is eating up wage gains. During collective bargaining, it has become a huge flash-point. Our biggest fight in Congress *right now* is over the health care costs for employees and retirees. Similarly, our brothers and sisters in other unions as well as in the non-unionized workforce *and the nation's budget deficit* are victims of uncontrolled health insurance costs.

The only groups that seem to be advantaged by this system are some in the health insurance industry and certain corporations that want to avoid contributing to employees' health insurance. By forcing workers to use the local emergency room as their health care provider, these corporations are making individuals who have health care pay for those who do not. This is the status quo. It is not acceptable. The NPMHU has joined with the AFL-CIO's effort. It is aimed at reducing everyone's health care costs. For more information, check out AFLCIO.org.

What is the current situation with legislation? There are several bills pending in the House and Senate, all of which have different solutions to the health care crisis. Congress returns on September 8th, after Labor Day. Both the House and Senate will continue writing their legislation. The White House will also have input, although there is much chatter about how much of a leadership role should be played by the President.

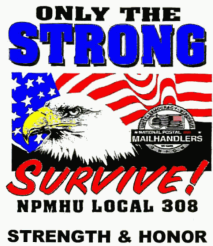
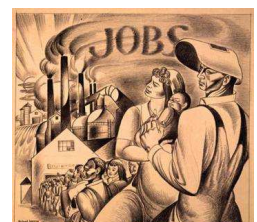
The NPMHU will continue to be involved; we encourage you to work with the AFL-CIO where you live, and use the AFL-CIO website to learn more about these important issues.



Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Dates for Open Season

November 9 - December 14, 2009

Federal regulations require an annual Open Season to be held each year from the Monday of the second full workweek in November through the Monday of the second full workweek in December.



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